

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 10-19 and 21-22 have been cancelled.

Claims 5-9, 20 and 23-33 have been amended to change the dependence.

Claims 5-9, 20 and 23-36 remain in the application.

Claims 34-36 have been held allowable.

Brief Description of the Invention

The invention is a method for remote delivery and manipulation of a miniature tool adjacent a work piece in a restricted space. A manipulator apparatus comprises a tool carrier and a carriage assembly for manipulating the tool carrier. The carriage assembly includes first and second movable track members; first and second pistons for operating the first and second track members respectively; and a remote hydraulic actuator for operating the carriage assembly. The method includes delivering the manipulator apparatus by conveyor and positioning it adjacent a desired area of the work piece. The carriage assembly is operated by actuating the remote hydraulic actuator thereby causing one or both track members to move relative to the work piece.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) :
Claims 1, 2 and 15

Claims 1, 2 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,586,379 to F.R. Burkhardt, Jr.

Response

Claims 1, 2 and 15 have been cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):
Claims 3, 4 and 16-19

Claims 3, 4 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,586,379 to F.R. Burkhardt, Jr. in view of U.S. Patent 4,217,782 to G.W. Pont.

Response

Claims 3, 4 and 16-19 have been cancelled.

Claims Objected to:
Claims 5-9 and 20-33

Claims 5-9 and 20-33 have been objected to as depending from rejected claims.

Response

Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled.

Claims 5-9, 20 and 23-33 have been amended to change the dependence to allowed claims. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of intervening Claims 17, 18 and 19. Accordingly, the objection has been overcome by the amendment.


Conclusion

Allowance of Claims 5-9, 20 and 23-33 is respectfully requested.

Issue of Claims 5-9, 20 and 23-36 is solicited.

No additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard A. Morgan - 19 Nov. 2003

Richard A. Morgan
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 30,575

Telephone 202-586-3440 (FAX 202-586-2805)